

**In the Claims:**

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A ~~method~~ computer program product for creating a map of available physical resources on an interface level within an Internet Protocol (IP) network, the computer program product having a medium with a computer program embodied thereon, the computer program comprising computer program code for:

[[ -]] combining [[(303)]] a topology map of said IP network with resource information that comprises information about identities of IP addresses and quantity of IP addresses; and

[[ -]] performing [[(304)]] a mapping between said IP addresses and [[a]] physical resource information interface within said IP network, the physical resource information comprising identities of physical resources and an amount of each physical resource, mapping being performed by a resource manager collecting information from network elements by using Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP);

~~wherein the method is implemented by a computer program product stored on a computer readable storage medium.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product according to claim 14, wherein the topology map is obtained by a topology aware resource manager.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product according to claim 14, wherein ~~said resource manager performing the mapping~~ is implemented within a router or a server.

19-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A network element resource manager for creating a map of available physical resources on an interface level within an Internet Protocol (IP) network, the network element comprising:

means [(502)] for combining a topology map of said IP network with resource information that comprises information about identities of IP addresses and quantity of IP addresses; and

means [(504)] for performing a mapping between said IP addresses and [(a)] physical resource information, the physical resource information comprising identities of physical resources and an amount of each physical resource interface within said IP network; and

means for obtaining the physical resource information by collecting information from network elements by using Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP);

wherein the resource manager is implemented by a computer program product stored on a computer readable storage medium.

23. (Currently Amended) The resource manager network element according to claim 22, wherein said resource manager further comprises comprising means for creating a topology map.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The resource manager network element according to claim 22, wherein said resource manager network element is implemented within a router or a server.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product according to claim 14, wherein the physical resource information further comprises bandwidth information of the physical interface.